

REMARKS

Claims 7-13 and 15-16 are pending in the present application after cancellation of claims 1-6 and 17. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended.

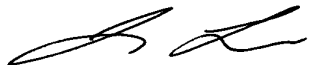
The Examiner indicated that claims 7-13 are "objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." However, claim 7 was previously rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 1. (See 5/19/05 Amendment). Accordingly, claim 7 and its dependent claims 8-13 are currently in allowable condition.

Claims 1-6 and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,619,268 to Rueger et al. ("Rueger"). In response, claims 1-6 and 17 have been canceled, and claims 15 and 16 have been amended to incorporate features substantially similar to the features recited in allowable claim 7. Entry of the amendments to claims 15 and 16 is requested since the amendments raise no new issues and put the claims in allowable condition.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims 7-13 and 15-16 are in allowable condition. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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